HON. FREDERICK DOUGLASS, Third Annual Pair of the Tennessee Color-ed Agricultural and Mechanical Asso-ciation, in Nashville. Tennessee, Sep-tember 18, 1873.

ution was sicklied over with the pale of thought." The fact is -and I am not ed to admit it—I felt very much as of our generals did when called upon the chemy on the open field of battle. Ald have gladly been relieved of the

make him drink."
ground of my hesitation about coming
as not the cholera, for Nashville is
derably healthy; it was not the disI would have to travel to get here, for
nearly nearly nearly as a re-perily alway communications are nearly any in the country, but the trouble t is the rub now, and instead of disappear-ng on my approach it is all the more per-dexing when I look out upon this expectant multitude, and remember the high-sounding praises heaped upon me in anticipation of

praises heaped upon me in anticipation of my coming.

Gentlemen, this is an agricultural and mechanical industrial fair. I am surrounded to day by industrious mechanics and farmers, and von have got me up here to tell you shat I know about farming. Now, I am neither a farmer nor a mechanic. During the last thirty-five years I have been actively employed in a work which left me no time to study either the theory or the practice of farming. I could far more easily tell you what I don't know about farming than what I don't know about farming than what I do know, though the former would take more time to tell it than the latter. Well, geatlemen, I do not mean to censure your excellent committee for paying me in advance and insisting upon my coming, thus buying a pig in a bag, not knowling what kind of an animal would come forth at the time, but I am bold to say that they violated in that act one of the first rules of successful farming, which is to see that the tools are always placed in the hands that can use them best. There are, undoubtedly, hundreds of colored men in the vicinity of Nashville, practical farmers and mechanics, who could address you upon the subjects of this occasion far more appropriately and effectively than I can do. This suggestion may seem rather late, but it may serve you a good turn when the business of selecting a speaker shall come round again.

But gentlemen, there is a sunnier side to

this distressing picture. Since I am now here, and there is no possible way of escape, I may at least employ the device of the boy who whistled in the gravevard to keep up his courage. Several considerations serve in some measure to reconcile me to my task. One of these is the fact that being a public speaker, I have often tound myself in just such embarrassing situations at other times

If you will pardon me a little autobiography and, perhaps, a little egotism, as well, I will tell you, that like many other men, I have been all my life long doing extraordinary things for the first time, some of which had been better undone. I have been constantly required to undertake the performance of works which came upon me as a surprise, and for which I had no previous training or preparation, and while my work has generally been rather unskillfully and imperfectly done, I have always had a thoughtful and generous people for my judges, who have measured and estimated my achievements not by the rule of my disadvantages, and have thus often accorded me higher praise than I could possibly claim on the score of merit.

Besides this, there is encouragement in the subject itself. Agriculture is one of the very

recumulation of knowledge does not speak in vain.

In few things, perhaps, more than in farming, does one find that there is nothing new under the sun. The sages of to-day do but reiterate the wisdom of the sages of antiquity. The perception of truth may be new or old, but the truth itself is neither old nor new, but eternal as the Universe. The discovery of the fundamental principles of Agriculture reach far beyond the limits of authentic history, for men tilled the soil long before they wrote books, and would never have written books if they had not tilled the soil. All the present rests upon all the past. The very best that any in my circumstances can do is

or men and at other times.

There are doubtless many great truths ich yet remain to be discovered and applied Agriculture, as well as to many other.

It was a favorite.

quality that no one man may claim the ex-ducive merit of original discovery. Truth, he the gentle light of Heaven, usually dawns you more than one mind at the same time, that there is seldom a discovery which has of the than one to claim the honor of it. Gentlemen, I find still another source of

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is this respect the conditions of success are nearly perfect. You have taken the title at its flood. You start in the full blaze of the site of the perfect of the state of th

sing of Theodore Parker, that "all the ace between man's mind and God's mind crowded with truths which wait to be discrete of order of the parker of the par

washington

men, fully believing in the future of your people. You have wisely availed yourselves of a well-known power, the power of association, organization, mutual counsel and coperation. You have dared to organize an Agricultura, and make the causes which an arrival your of remeasee. You propose to wisdom there may be instead to open the propose of wisdom there may be instead to open there, in the city of Nashville, a State Agricultural Fair, to display the rich fruits of your industry, and to ask your fellow-country; show how diversified labor produces a because the provided and the propose of wisdom there may be instead of your state Agricultural Fair, to display the rich fruits of your industry, and to ask your fellow-country; men, of all conditions and colors, to view and haspeet them. This is an act, on your individual to please the proposed parterns on the work of the parterns of the proposed them and the proposed that the parterns of the proposed them and the proposed that the parterns of the proposed them and the proposed parterns of the propos

secure.

I have already referred generally to the favorable conditions afforded to successfu

she hended. Everybody knows that distance is an element to be considered in farming and in much other work. As much time and in much other work as over one acre of poor ground as over one acre of ground as over o

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